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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Arab Mexican Chamber of Industry and Commerce	2
2.	Australian Catholic Social Justice Council	4
3.	Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science	7
4.	Confederation of Business Women of Russia	10
5.	International Union of Architects	12
6.	National Association of Cuban Economists	14
7.	National Association of Realtors	16

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1. Arab Mexican Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The goal of the Arab Mexican Chamber of Industry and Commerce is to strengthen and promote the economic and trade relations between Arab countries and Mexico. The organization carries out the following activities: (a) development of studies, information and statistics: since one of the main barriers to trade between both areas is mutual lack of knowledge, the organization publishes all types of market studies and profiles, business manuals and trade statistics on Mexico and the Arab countries; (b) promotion of business opportunities: commercial opportunities that contribute to the industrial development in both regions are promoted; (c) training programmes and seminars: to increase the knowledge between both regions training programmes and seminars are organized to enhance the skills and expertise of members of the organization; (d) advice and consulting: in order to guide the members towards successful negotiations, advice and consulting is provided on trade, industrial projects and capital investment; (e) international events and commercial missions: to promote the successful introduction of new products into foreign markets, the organization coordinates commercial missions and promotes the participation of Mexican delegations in international fairs in Arab countries and organizes delegations of Arab businessmen to Mexico; (f) development of studies, information and statistics: the organization has carried out work on 125 country profiles related to Arab countries and the main products to be exported to those countries. The organization also developed business guidebooks for 22 Arab countries; (g) training programmes and seminars: seminars and conferences about logistics and strategies for exporting goods to Arab countries, business opportunities, business conditions, bank guarantees and payment procedures were organized; (h) promotion of business opportunities: the organization promotes specific business opportunities to its membership; (i) international events and commercial missions: with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the organization routinely promotes the participation of Mexico in fairs in Arab countries and organizes official commercial missions to promote the interests of Mexican companies in Arab countries.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

To contribute to the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, the organization offers information, trade statistics and advice on the trade-related matters between Mexico and Arab countries. To support the activities and aims of the Council, the organization also supports the strengthening of cooperative links with Mexican industries on economic and social issues. The organization recognizes the important role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to the access and transfer of knowledge and technology. The organization has been contributing to solving economic problems of concern to the United Nations. Research carried out by the organization provides detailed information on the market needs of Arab countries and helps to identify products

that could fulfil those needs and gives solutions to their trade-related economic problems.

From 2005 to 2008, the organization held multiple events to increase trade and reinforce relations between both regions.

2005: A commercial mission, including 10 Mexican companies, to Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Algeria, during which the organization held meetings with the chambers of commerce and Government representatives in each country, and Mexican companies held meetings with their counterparts.

2006: Two commercial missions, the first to Egypt, Morocco and Algeria, included 9 Mexican companies, and the second to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, included 6 Mexican companies.

2007: (a) One mission to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait with the participation of 11 Mexican companies; (b) The organization received a delegation from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and organized meetings with representatives of Mexican companies.

2008: (a) Two commercial missions, the first to Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan, included seven Mexican companies, and the second, to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Lebanon, with 10 Mexican companies; (b) the organization received an Egyptian delegation and organized meetings with representatives of Mexican companies; (c) supported, promoted and participated in the first Lebanese exhibition in Mexico, including the participation of 30 Lebanese companies; (d) we organized an "Arab week" in Mexico City, giving the people in Mexico the opportunity to know about the culture, art, typical food, music and typical clothes of Arab countries. As a result of the above activities and its work with the Governments and chambers of commerce in both regions, from 2005 to 2008 exports from Mexico to Arab countries increased 204 per cent and the imports from Arab countries to Mexico increased 138 per cent. Owing to a lack of funds, the organization did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies nor did it attend major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period.

2. Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Special, 1997

I. Aims and purposes

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in 1987 as the national justice, peace and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. The Conference mandates the Council to promote research, education, to undertake advocacy and promote action on social justice, integrating them deeply into the life of the whole Catholic community, and to provide a credible voice on these matters in Australian society. The Council is accountable to the Conference through the Bishops' Commission for Justice and Development. The primary constituency of the Council is the 26 per cent of the Australian population that is Catholic. The Council works with other religious and secular organizations in Australia and through an international network of Catholic justice and peace organizations and other human rights organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. It is an active participant in public policy debate in Australia — seeking social justice and the protection of human rights according to the principles of Catholic social teaching and the system of rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other instruments of the United Nations.

II. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The Council had difficulty in attending overseas conferences and intergovernmental forums of the United Nations owing to limitations in staff hours, but it intends to increase its attendance. In addition, following its 2004 communications with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and the Chair-Rapporteur of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Council, after appropriately raising particular human rights issues that could not be resolved at the national level with the relevant officials of the United Nations has directed the focus of its advocacy work to the Liberal Coalition Government (2005-2007) and the Labour Government (2007-present).

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In July 2008, the President of the Council communicated with the Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs of the United Nations by way of a contribution to the high-level segment of the Council concerning the 2008 annual ministerial review on the implementation of internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development. The organization submitted a study, "Ending hunger — How far can we go?" highlighting strategies to reinvigorate implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

A. Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The above-mentioned study, which was launched in June 2005, and its subsequent promotion through the Council's quarterly journal, *Justice Trends*, every Catholic parish and social justice group throughout Australia has been encouraged to take action to support the Millennium Development Goals.

Activities in support of global principles

Regarding trade justice and the right to development, following stalled negotiations between Timor-Leste and Australia over oil and gas reserves under the contested boundaries of the Timor Sea, the Conference, with the assistance of the Council, issued a call on 9 May 2005 for parties to resume negotiations with a particular concern for the humanitarian needs of the country and its right to development. The Council's publication, *The Timor Sea's Oil and Gas: What's fair?*, was used by both parties to the negotiations. ACSJC helped to organize events during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Sydney in 2007.

Following the above-mentioned 2004 communication with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the Council raised its concerns during the consultations between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and NGOs in Canberra, in 2005. Identical concerns were raised in the concluding observations on Australia submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/AUS/CO/14). In March 2006, members of the Council met with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission to raise public awareness of issues and to address child and family abuse in remote indigenous communities. The Government's suspension of provisions of the Racial Discrimination Act (1975) has allowed the imposition of social security restrictions that could contravene articles 1, 4, 2 and 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. On Human Rights Day in 2008, marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, the Council issued a statement in conjunction with indigenous leaders calling for the reinstatement of the provisions of the Racial Discrimination Act.

Throughout the reporting period, the Council has repeatedly corresponded with Government ministers and advocated for asylum-seekers subject to the then Government's "Pacific solution" with regard to the deportation of unsuccessful claimants to unsafe destinations. Unwarranted limitations or contraventions concerned, among others, articles 31(1) and 33(1) of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and articles 7 and 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In October 2008, the Government funded the "Trafficking in Humans" network to provide outreach support to victims, raise awareness and help the Government develop a national anti-trafficking strategy.

Until May 2007, the Council protested the arbitrary detention of the remaining Australian detainee at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and sought a proper trial for him before a non-military court, or his release and return. The Council drew on the reports of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, particularly its report to the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2006/120).

In December 2007, the Council publication *Confronting the Death Penalty: People, Politics and Principle* was launched. Copies were sent to every Member of Parliament, and it has been used to advocate for a more consistent position against capital punishment by the Government in both domestic and international circles. The Council has also made numerous statements and issued pleas for clemency for both Australian and foreign nationals facing the death penalty in overseas jurisdictions.

Broad support for the United Nations as a global institution for justice, development and peace has been provided through nationally distributed discussion guides, which have noted the role of the United Nations in ensuring that all nations have their place at the table on matters of human rights and development.

As an organization aligning its work with the aims of the United Nations International Decade for the Cultivation of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, the Council is grateful for this opportunity to submit its report for the period from 2005 to 2008.

3. Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science is an independent institute for research, education and implementation of gender equality, and thus of sustainable social, cultural and economic development in large-scale field experiences, pursuant to its commitment to the overall goals and objectives of the United Nations — equal treatment, opportunities, participation, power of decision and definition for both genders; sustainable development; love, peace and justice, aiming specifically at implementing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. It provides information, innovative strategies, approaches and concepts, educates experts in the above subjects and supervises the implementation of programmes.

In accordance with Millennium Development Goal 3 (Gender equality and empowerment of women), the Center requires that female genital mutilation be overcome in the community at large as a fundamental action. Using a value-centred comprehensive approach, the Center has brought about a cultural transformation in the Mosocho division in Kenya. Since 2002, thousands of fathers and mothers have decided to safeguard their daughters by forgoing female genital mutilation. The core of this process is to focus on formal, non-formal and informal education and training for all sections and levels in order to generate qualified multipliers. The Mosocho staff decided to call their activities the "Fulda-Mosocho project". The name comes from the special cooperation between Fulda, Germany and the division of Mosocho, Kenya, in all steps, parts and levels of the project.

The Center "focuses on enabling meaningful learning experiences that foster sustainable behaviour", "educational institutions" and "families and communities". As required under the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the Center promotes the sustainable development of individuals and thus the social, cultural and economic development of families and communities. To advance the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, the Center has increased its cooperation and partnership on all levels. Information provided by the Center can be found in policy papers of the Kenyan Government, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and NGOs.

The Center has become a focal point in overcoming female genital mutilation by implementing gender equality and expanding its engagement to national and local activities.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and in activities in support of global principles

In the period under review cooperation between the Center and the United Nations was strengthened, in line with the request of the Organization that new research findings, results and best practices be made available:

(a) The Mosocho project was presented at the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 2007. At the invitation of the working group on female genital mutilation/cutting the Director of the Center made a presentation on "How to eliminate female circumcision"; (i) a representative of the Center made a statement to the interactive expert panel on the elimination of all forms of violence against women on "Transformed education for chiefs, clan elders and officials to support the implementation of human rights for girls"; (ii) in an interactive dialogue in March 2007 on progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality, a representative made a statement on an example of successful programmes to foster the concept of gender equality among men and boys;

(b) Cooperation with UNICEF: the UNICEF Donors Working Group meeting in Berlin in 2007, included a discussion of information on female genital mutilation/cutting made available by the Center to the Commission on the Status of Women. UNICEF Kenya and the Kenyan Ministry for Gender, Children and Social Development visited the Mosocho division in April 2008. The final report for a study on social dynamics of abandonment of harmful practices in Kenya, and "updates", together with the Center's scientific expertise led to the inclusion of the value-centred approach and the Fulda-Mosocho project as the best practice project of Kenya in UNICEF's multi-country study on the social dynamics of the abandonment of harmful practices;

(c) The experience with the value-centred approach promoted the draft of the Kenyan national plan of action for the elimination of female genital mutilation (2008-2012) and the Government's anti-female genital mutilation policy. As a member of the national coordinating committee for the policy, the Center submitted a policy document at the national planning meeting within the framework of the UNICEF/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/Government of Kenya joint programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, in July 2008 (Kilaguni Lodge, Kenya);

(d) Involvement in the "International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation" since 2005: (i) new research findings on harmful traditional practices and the empowerment of women presented at the European Parliament conference in Brussels in 2007; (ii) participation in the international conference on female genital mutilation and forced/early marriages, Brussels, February 2007;

(e) Position papers for: (i) an online forum on women in leadership roles, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, moderated by the Division for the Advancement of Women (Nov.-Dec. 2007); (ii) online discussion on achieving sustainable development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Feb.-March 2008); (iii) online discussion on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving, in the context of HIV/AIDS, Division for the Advancement of Women and Department of Economic and Social Affairs (July-Aug. 2008);

(f) Nomination of the Director of the Center and the Fulda-Mosocho project by the European Parliament for its Human Rights Prize, September 2006. In that context, 150 artists from all over the world documented the pain of female genital mutilation. A selection of art was published in the booklet "Don't".

B. Initiatives undertaken by the organization

(a) In Africa, the Center continued to focus on the needs of people at the grass-roots level and enlarged its initiative in Kenya on the Fulda-Mosocho project. On the scientific basis of the value-centred approach, it developed curricula and programmes to change behaviour and attitudes in the field of gender equality, in particular the abandonment of female genital mutilation; (b) the value-centred approach was also applied in 17 one-day workshops for chiefs, 25 seminars for 300 clan elders, 88 seminars for (former) circumcisers, 1 seminar for church leaders and 15 seminars for gookos and guardians.

In December 2008, over 40 major public events were held to document the achievements of "A new growth in the Gusii culture". At the fifth anniversary, in 2008, 10,000 people, community members and guests, took part to celebrate and honour the safeguarded girls and the decision of their parents to leave their daughters uncircumcised. This large-scale experience in the field has inspired not only the Government of Kenya — divisions and districts around Mosocho, have also requested that the value-centred approach be applied in their regions.

Dissemination of Millennium Development Goals through publications: outreach work/networking

(a) The Director of the Center has contributed scientific articles to advance the goals of the United Nations and the European Union; (b) the Center has expanded its income-generating project "As Friends to Kenya" to give interested persons a chance to engage in volunteer work; (c) 30 workshops, lectures and 80 multimedia presentations in Germany on Female Genital Mutilation, including ongoing international, regional, national and local networking and lobbying with the Government and NGOs; (d) cooperation with the International Federation of University Women on the Millennium Development Goals — Keynote presentation on speeding up the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, including a panel on the Millennium Goals "What are we doing to reach them?" at the Federation's twenty-ninth conference in Manchester, United Kingdom in August 2007.

4. Confederation of Business Women of Russia

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The Confederation of Business Women of Russia, which brings together business women and female top managers at enterprises of various types from over 64 regions of the Russian Federation (17,000 entities and over 5,000 individuals), constitutes one of the most efficient and powerful women organizations in the Russian Federation. The Confederation initiated the concept of ethical business and developed the gender strategy for the Russian Federation. The President is a member of the inter-agency committee to provide equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women and a member of the coordinating committee on gender issues. With the assistance of the Presidents of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, the Confederation organizes the Commonwealth of Independent States women's business forums.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In 2006, in cooperation with UNDP, the Confederation organized an international business women's forum on socio-economic integration and development, with over 400 participants. In 2008, the organization held another meeting, "Women entrepreneurship amid the crisis: search for solutions", with 500 members participating. The subject of these meetings attracted the attention of the Government and society at large. Women's problems were generally recognized to have fundamental social importance, with women as part of the most socially vulnerable segments of the population. According to the United Nations, women, who make up half of the world population, do one third of all paid jobs and two thirds of unpaid jobs, but receive only 10 per cent of global income and own 1 per cent of global property.

The situation in the Russian Federation and countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States is the same. Women's and family business activity, both in Russia and most post-Soviet countries, has developed, first and foremost, as the most important factor for the elimination of gender inequality in terms of employment and income distribution. It should be noted that the development of women's and family business activity has always been controlled, inter alia, by imperfect law and an absence of support from the Government.

The global financial crisis has turned out to be disastrous for women's business activity, and the organization is working to attract the attention of the Government and society to the gender aspects of the crisis and to find adequate solutions. The Confederacy, in association with UNDP, is an active participant in contests, joint projects and programmes of public importance. In 2008, the organization participated in monitoring women's rights in the Russian Federation ("A thousand

women's stories"), a programme for the development of small business in Moscow in 2005 and 2006. The organization also issued a report on the development of women's business activity in connection with the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

During the reporting period, a number of important international and national events were held, including: (a) public hearings on the subject of the contribution of women's business activity to overcoming poverty through the establishment of the non-governmental social services market in the context of implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration; (b) the President of the Confederation participated in the first international Libyan conference on women and law and accepted an invitation from the Supreme Council of Bahraini Women to participate in the meeting of Russian business women and representatives of the Association of Business Women of Bahrain.

Given the positive nature of the meetings held, there was a certain basis for the further development of cooperation between public organizations in the three countries. Considering the importance of consolidating the position of the Russian Federation in the region and the necessity of developing cooperation with Asian and African countries in that connection, it was thought reasonable to continue and systematize these activities.

5. International Union of Architects

Special, 1949

I. Introduction

The International Union of Architects works to unite the architects of the world on a democratic basis and to represent them at international and governmental levels so to ensure the continued development of professional methods and the high-level of educational criteria while respecting the specificity of different communities and providing aid in the sustainable development of the built environment, disaster relief and "housing without borders".

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2005: Mauritius, January, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

2006: (a) Canada, June, United Nations World Urban Forum; (b) Geneva, July, substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

2007: (a) Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, Geneva; (b) September, Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Housing and Land Management.

2008: (a) Nanjing, China, November, United Nations World Urban Forum; (b) Poznan, Poland, December, preparatory meeting for the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Representatives of the Union attended:

2005: (a) Paris, January, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), third drafting meeting of the UNESCO/OECD guidelines on quality provision in cross-border higher education; (b) Geneva, January, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), experts meeting on trade and development aspects of professional services and regulatory frameworks; (c) Paris, April, UNESCO Higher Education Division, ninth NGO consultation on higher education, working group on higher education and the challenges of cross-border higher education; (d) Paris, October, UNESCO celebration of its sixtieth anniversary and holding of its General Conference; (e) collaboration with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris, May, Union's contribution to the Vienna memorandum on historic urban landscape; (f) Vienna, May, UNESCO-World Heritage Centre,

International Conference: World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture; (g) Nairobi, September, Africities summit. Collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Nairobi, agreement of cooperation between the Union and UN-Habitat.

2006: (a) Geneva, June, 117th session of the Executive Council of the World Health Organization (WHO); (b) collaboration with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Jerusalem, June, workshop on historic cities in the twenty-first century; (c) Vilnius, July, thirtieth session of UNESCO World Heritage Centre; (d) Nairobi, September, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Africities Summit; (e) collaboration with UN-Habitat, Monday, 2 October, World Day of Architecture in connection with UN-Habitat World Day of Habitat on the theme: "Cities, magnets of hope".

2007: (a) Paris, October-November, thirty-fourth session of UNESCO General Conference; (b) collaboration with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, January-February, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, regional workshop on historic urban landscapes; (c) Christchurch, New Zealand, June-July, thirty-first session of UNESCO World Heritage Centre; (d) Paris, October, sixteenth session of UNESCO World Heritage Centre; (e) collaboration with UN-Habitat, Nairobi, April, twenty-first session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council; (f) 1 October, World Day of Architecture in connection with UN-HABITAT World Day of Habitat.

2008: (a) Turin, Italy, June, signature of a partnership agreement between the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Union; (b) Geneva, September, sixty-ninth session of Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Housing and Land Management; (c) collaboration with UN-Habitat: Turin, Italy, July, second cooperation agreement between the Union and UN-Habitat; (d) Pordenone, Italy, October, celebration of the World Day of Architecture on the theme "Architecture and cities for our children" in connection with the World Habitat Day on the theme "Harmonious Cities"; and (e) Persepolis, Islamic Republic of Iran, October, World Olympiad for Urban Design, expert group meeting of UN-Habitat and the International Art and Architecture Research Association.

Activities in line with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

In 2006, the Union held an international competition, "Celebration of cities", inviting architects to rethink cities in order to create a true urbanity and a sustainable social life style to help eradicate poverty.

6. National Association of Cuban Economists

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The National Association of Cuban Economists is an NGO founded on 14 June 1979. It is made up of a national committee composed of 75 members elected by Congress every five years, with a national executive council and provincial committees, with their corresponding Councils, in the 14 provinces of the country. In addition, there are 169 committees in municipalities and 4,743 grass-root sections. The Association has 17 scientific societies in which the members participate according to their professional interest. The Association is totally self-financed. Its members pay a monthly fee and, through its consultancy enterprise, CANEC, technical, economic and accounting advice is offered by more than 1,290 consultants (80 per cent of whom are retired). The consultancy provides the Association with the necessary financial means for its performance. The main objectives of the Association are to promote professional upgrading and raise the level of knowledge of all workers in the field to provide advice, training and to establish relations with professionals and international institutions in the economic sphere.

The Association publishes a bimonthly newspaper *El Economista*, with a print run of 20,000 copies, and a weekly electronic newspaper of the same name on its website (see http://eleconomista.cubaweb.cu). The Association also publishes, with the University of Havana, the journal "*Economia y Desarrollo*".

The Association holds the Presidency of the Association of Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Vice-Presidency of the Association of Caribbean Economists. It is a member of the International Institute of Costs, the International Union of Economists, the Executive of the Latin American Federation of Internal Auditors, the Association of Agricultural Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Latin American Studies Association. The Association holds numerous scientific events, the most important of which is the annual International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, which is attended by economists from more than 60 countries, including the specialized agencies of the United Nations. These events have been honoured by the presence of nine Nobel Prize laureates in the field of economics and two Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

The Association has participated in numerous activities of the Economic and Social Council and, in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UNCTAD, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), participated in and presented papers:

2005: (a) Seventh International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, held in Cuba, with the participation of the United Nations;

(b) hearings of NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations about the reform of the institution, New York.

2006: (a) Eighth International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, held in Cuba, with the participation of the United Nations; (b) meeting of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNCTAD, New York; (c) UNCTAD hearing with civil society and the private sector, New York.

2007: (a) Ninth International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, held in Cuba, with the participation of the United Nations; (b) forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development, United Nations Headquarters.

2008: (a) Tenth International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, held in Cuba, with the participation of the United Nations; (b) regional dialogue of Latin America and the Caribbean before the twelfth Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD, SELA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); (c) tenth Congress of Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean, including the participation of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogota.

7. National Association of Realtors

Special, 1989

I. Introduction

The vision of the National Association of Realtors is to be the collective force influencing and shaping the real estate industry. It seeks to be the leading advocate of the right to own, use and transfer real property; the acknowledged leader in developing standards for efficient, effective and ethical real estate business practices; and to be valued by real estate professionals as crucial to their success. Working on behalf of America's property owners, the Association provides a facility for professional development, research and the exchange of information among its members, including the public and the Government, for the purpose of preserving the free enterprise system and the right to own, use and transfer real property.

Within its organizational structure is the International Operations Group, which seeks to ensure that global real estate markets are accessible, profitable and ethical. The Association's position as a widely recognized leader in the international real estate community enhances the success of its members in the global marketplace and its role as corporate citizen. This is primarily effected through strategic alliances and related efforts designed to: (a) support the adoption of compatible real estate standards; (b) advance real property rights; and (c) mitigate impediments to the global transaction of real estate.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

The work of the Association in support of the Economic and Social Council and of the United Nations in general has largely be pursued in conjunction with or through support of various organizations and bodies closely associated with or created by the Association itself, including the International Housing Coalition and the International Real Property Foundation. These groups support the goals of the United Nations, particularly with regard to resolutions passed by the General Assembly involving issues of shelter, urban development, property rights, housing policy and finance. In addition, the Association has successfully advocated for voluntary contributions to UN-Habitat and funding for water programmes for the poor in support of the Millennium Development Goals. The Association seeks to bring together organized professional bodies of real estate practitioners around the world to engage in support of activities related to shelter conducted by national development agencies. The Association has supported the relevant goals of the United Nations since 1976 when it participated in the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I). In the intervening years the Association has supported and testified before the United States Congress in support of the United Nations Global Strategy for Shelter and formed a close working relationship with UN-Habitat.

Specific events and activities during the reporting period include: (a) third session of the World Urban Forum: June 2006, Vancouver, Canada; at which the Association provided administrative and financial support, under the coordination of the International Housing Coalition. The Coalition sponsored/commissioned 11 housing

resource papers, covering a wide range of housing issues. The papers were widely distributed and provided background information, data and case studies for 12 interactive workshops; the Association was responsible for the drafting of a paper and organizing an interactive workshop on "Affordable housing in the United States: some optimistic approaches"; (b) fourth session of the World Urban Forum, November 2008, Nanjing, China; through its participation in and financial contribution to the International Housing Coalition, the Association supported two networking events: "Urban land markets in Africa and housing the poor", and "Donor assistance for housing and urban development".

Specific legislative/advocacy activities for the time period from 2005-2008 include: (a) March-April 2007, letter writing campaign to members of the United States Congress regarding support for two provisions in fiscal year 2008 budget for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), related to international housing needs; (b) continued funding for the International Real Property Foundation at a level of $3 million; (c) support for a provision included in the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request for $5 million for an Africa Housing and Infrastructure Facility. Both initiatives were designed to assist countries to achieve decent and safe housing for their citizens.

The Association supported increased funding for the Paul Simon "water for the poor" act in fiscal year 2008. The act, signed into law on 1 December 2005, makes access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of United States foreign assistance programmes.

The Association, in support of the International Housing Coalition, periodically provides administration advocacy assistance in the preparation of letters and the arrangement of appointments for the staff and representatives of the Coalition on global housing issues with members of the United States Congress.